

Services, a state agency that educates and trains disabled and developmentally challenged persons to obtain meaningful jobs.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff-elect Byers has a superb record as an officer of the law, and is dedicated to making Rutherford County a safe and peaceful place in which to live. Combating the methamphetamine epidemic is a perfect example of his leadership for the county. He is an excellent choice for this position, and I congratulate him on this great honor. I thank Sheriff-elect Byers and his wife Sheila for their dedication to the community and look forward to his service as Sheriff of Rutherford County.

HONORING THE ASTUTE LEADERSHIP OF JAMES T. WILLERSON, M.D., PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON (UTHSC-H) FOR UTHSC-H'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS BROUGHT ABOUT BY HURRICANE KATRINA

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James T. Willerson, President of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H).

On September 1, 2005, Dr. Willerson, along with UTHSC-H Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Michael D. McKinney, M.D., was given the task by Houston Mayor Bill White to transform a portion of the George R. Brown Convention Center (GRB) in Houston, Texas, from a convention center to a medical triage center, adjacent to the shelter created for more than 5,000 Hurricane Katrina survivors.

The UT Health Science Center acted quickly to design, organize and prepare clinic space to serve evacuees at the George R. Brown Convention Center, which opened as an additional safe haven to Houston's Astrodome, which quickly achieved capacity within a day of opening. Over about three weeks, more than 6,000 volunteers operated the UT Clinic and managed more than 9,000 patient visits. The volunteers included UT physicians, nurses, dentists, public health professionals, students and administrative staff as well as spouses of these professionals. The clinic also included other volunteers and health professionals from Texas Medical Center institutions and individuals from across the country who answered the call to help in the aftermath of this national crisis. These volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure welcome, comfort and care for our neighbors in need. Services provided with expertise and compassion in the UT Clinic included: emergency aid, pediatric care, immunizations, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, pharmacy, laboratory services, imaging and vision components, dental care and mental health services.

Several dedicated professionals from the UT Health Science Center worked to ensure that healthcare concerns at the evacuee sites were communicated with state and local officials. Scott Lillibridge, M.D., the Director of the Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Preparedness, provided critical technical assistance

and general epidemiology support at numerous evacuee facilities. Faculty and staff conducted rapid health assessments daily at evacuee sites. This information allowed Dr. Ward Casscells, the John Edward Tyson Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Vice President of Biotechnology at the Health Science Center, and Dr. Lillibridge to continually inform public health officials of evacuee health status and coordinate efforts with FEMA, CDC, the Red Cross, the City of Houston, Harris County, and the Texas Commissioner of Health.

Each of the UT Health Science Center's six schools—contributed in one way or another to the Hurricane Katrina response. Dr. Willerson encouraged his deans to seek every possible avenue to help during this time of crisis. He approved of the placement of students from Tulane Medical School and allocated space for the displaced Tulane faculty for their medical education, resident training and research at the UT Medical School. The medical school is also hosting 37 residents from Tulane so additional interruptions to their education will not occur.

Dr. Willerson is an exemplary leader who through his actions in this most recent crisis was able to show compassion in the midst of quick decision-making. With the help of a superb leadership team, headed by Dr. McKinney, the staff performed to the highest standards of professionalism and compassion. With the encouragement, support and guidance of Dr. Willerson, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston responded in countless ways as health professionals, lay volunteers, concerned citizens and caring friends.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Willerson and the hundreds of UTHSC-Houston professionals who answered the call to aid and assist their fellow Americans deserve the acclaim and gratitude of the Nation.

COMMENDING DR. ANNE HARLAN ON HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY AND NATION

### HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Anne Harlan on her long and distinguished service to her community and country, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement as director of the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Pomona, N.J.

During a career that has spanned more than 20 years, Dr. Harlan has been an unwavering advocate for improving the safety and security of our Nation's skies. Since 1995, she has lead the FAA's Technical Center and oversaw the research and development of new aviation safety and security technology. She has been a tremendous leader for the center, effectively managing and motivating over 1,000 outstanding employees who have given her their complete confidence. She has worked tirelessly to expand the center, while keeping the growing community cohesive and working as a team.

Before she came to the Technical Center, she served for 11 years in FAA's New Eng-

land Region where she held positions in the divisions of Flight Standards, Civil Aviation Security, and Human Resources. Dr. Harlan has also dutifully served as a special assistant to two deputy administrators during her multiple Washington assignments over the years.

Dr. Harlan has been willing to share her expertise over the years as she was on the faculty at the prestigious Harvard University Graduate School of Business where she taught in the MBA and doctoral programs. Those students who were fortunate enough to learn from her are certainly better off today having her insight and experiences passed down to them.

Throughout her distinguished career in public service, Dr. Harlan devoted herself to safeguarding the country, while preparing us for our future's challenges. I would like to personally congratulate and thank her on behalf of the flying public and all Americans. I hope she enjoys every bit of her retirement, she certainly deserves it.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR GENE ZIMMERMAN

### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 16, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant who has spent 42 years helping preserve our forests and wildlands for future Americans, want to particularly commend Gene Zimmerman for the past 15 years he has spent as supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Even as a boy growing up in eastern Oregon, Gene heard the call of the great outdoors. He spent his time camping, fishing and hiking in the Umatilla National Forest, and worked for a timber company in the summer. While attending Oregon State University, he spent his summers working for the U.S Forest Service, and began his full-time career there when he graduated in 1964.

Supervisor Zimmerman worked as a ranger in a number of forests in Oregon, and began honing his skills in volunteer organization and partnership building while working as district ranger in the Columbia Gorge District. He continued to develop an expertise in this area when he came to the National Headquarters in Washington, DC, to oversee legislation on recreation issues.

The experience Gene Zimmerman gained on how to help people enjoy National Forests without damaging them paid off when he was appointed supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest. I have proudly represented this area throughout my years in Congress, and I can safely say that there is no more heavily used and urbanized forest in the United States.

Imagine a forest nearly surrounded by the largest urban area in the Nation—the cities of Southern California—and sharing a mountain territory with tens of thousands of homes whose values range into the millions of dollars. The main ski resort area of southern California is within the San Bernardino National Forest, and millions of people go there for recreation each year. For millions of children